

Note: This is just a sampling of the reflections fourth graders wrote after participating in a Spanish cultural study in which they researched a topic of their choice (relating to Spain) both on the internet, through books and by inviting an “expert” to come in and speak to them, and then coded a trivia game with Scratch.

A Few of Our Favorite Quotes:

“I liked mixing coding with Spanish culture.”

“I really liked that there was no limit.”

“How nice it felt when we finally got it to work”

“I liked when you figured out how to code and you could do it without help. It made it a lot of fun.”

“Programming was harder at first but got easier and the more we tried and experimented the more interesting it became.”

“I improved on partnership and on communicating and that helped a lot and it just made everything better”

“Once I got the hang of the coding everything was easier.”

“We have a different language, but we are basically the same.”

Spanish Scratch Reflection

1. Likes:

- “Learning about Spain and how it is different from the U.S.A.”
- “I liked when you figured out how to code and you could do it without help. It made it a lot of fun.”
- “I thought it was fun learning about your topic - now I know a lot on Picasso.”
- “That we can learn how to code and still research on stuff about different countries”
- “I really liked that there was no limit.”
- “How nice it felt when we finally got it to work”
- “Researching, making the game and finding cool facts about our topic”
- “I liked mixing coding with Spanish culture.”
- “I LOVED making the game even though we did not finish.”
- “I liked forming the facts into trivia questions.”

- I liked doing the research because it was fun to see how Spain's dancing is different from ours."
- "The fact that I got to research soccer (or futbol) in other countries"
- "Going online and learning the history of Barca"
- "I liked having a partner because in the end we had a game with two ideas combined into one game."
- "I had fun and it is just fun, just using codes to mess with the comic characters."
- "I liked being able to look in books and taking notes about my topic."
- "I liked how we got to learn a lot about the subject that we chose on Spain, and I loved how we got to use Scratch."
- "I liked programming with Scratch so I thought it was fun."
- "Choosing what goes where and partnership! And I had a smart partner!" (A challenge noted by the same student was "When my partner was sick and it was all wrong, then I fixed it.")
- "The programming"
- "Working with friends and getting to know them better"
- "I enjoyed learning about a subject I had no clue about, it really gave me a taste of another culture."
- "You would get really excited when you get it to work right."
- "I liked that I got to try something new."
- "Programming and working with my friends"
- "Everything was fun because it was cool to make your own trivia"

2. Challenges:

- "I think finding the right code was tough."
- "The research was the hardest part."
- "I think learning how to code was challenging."
- "Getting the sprites what my partner and I wanted because we are not experts on coding."
- "Scratch, because sometimes we couldn't get it to do what we wanted it to do."
- "Trying to get Scratch to delete the speech bubbles"
- "Thinking about what me and my partner should research because we each wanted something different."
- "Picking our subject"
- "Figuring out the codes"
- "Not being able to finish it; I was getting really into it and then...fwup...we had no more time to do it."
- "I had to work by myself most of the time so I had to do about twice as much then everyone else."
- "I never really had time to work on my project because I was helping other people."
- "Making the questions pop on and off the screen"
- "Programming was harder at first but got easier and the more we tried and experimented the more interesting it became."
- "Thinking about questions so that I could start answering them"
- "We didn't have a lot of time, so we had to keep a move on it - ya know?"

- "Getting the Scratch to work the way we wanted it to work and finding the information on our subject"

3. Changes for next time:

- "pay more attention to the directions"
- "I would get help a little earlier so that I would have more time"
- "I would get at least four question down THEN do the costume and stage changes."
- "I would try more things with Scratch and try not to get disappointed when the things my partner and I tried and didn't work."
- "I would have had more general questions that were easier to answer."
- "Start Scratch sooner so that we could have had more time"
- "I'd pick a topic that I know more about."
- "Save our Scratch project correctly"
- "I would get the questions done at home"
- "I would record a question, then program, then record, then program instead of recording everything then doing the coding."
- "I would change my topic."
- "Get a topic that interests me more"
- "I would have made my questions easier in the beginning."
- "Use better questions for my research and take more specific notes"
- "I would probably focus a little more"
- "I would like to have one more class coding because we wanted to finish it."
- "Doing research at home"
- "I would probably start off by looking at the directions. Then I think it would have been easier for me to understand."
- "Add one more question"
- "I would look at different websites and maybe thinking about my topic more."

4. Skills Addressed:

- "The skills of programming and figuring stuff out with the materials around me"
- "Thinking, communicating, teamwork"
- "I improved on partnership and on communicating and that helped a lot and it just made everything better"
- "Compromising on what to do"
- "I think I got better with time management and collaboration."
- "Coding, research and learning"
- "Coding"
- "That you can't get distracted when you have a time limit."
- "Teamwork"
- "Gathering facts about the Spanish guitar"
- "Focusing"
- "Researching to find the important things and not just stuff on a page"
- "Creating questions for research"

- "I think it helped me get more patient."
- "Definitely my Scratch skills and the Spanish basics."
- "Scratch skills, teamwork and cooperation"
- "Researching"
- "Really thinking hard and fast" - Phineas
- "Once I got the hang of the coding everything was easier."
- "Using the internet for research"
- "Teamwork mostly, because we had to agree."
- "Working with my partner"
- "Problem solving"
- "Working on computers"
- "Working together with someone"

5. Cultural Connections:

- "The culture of Spain seems to have more classical music."
- "Flamenco dancing is a lot different than how we dance."
- "That civil war breaks out for different reasons."
- "I realized while hearing people asking questions to Senora Roth's husband that their government and food is much different from ours."
- "In Spain dancers perform in a cafe and we do ours in an auditorium."
- "The culture of Spain seems to have more classical music."
- "In Spain they favor one sport mostly and we follow a lot of sports."
- "They call soccer futbol in Spain."
- "I noticed that soccer is popular in both countries but in America it does not really form our culture."
- "We don't all speak Spanish."
- "We celebrate different things."
- "In Spain people speak Spanish and we speak English and their traditions are different."
- "USA and Spain both play soccer. Barca is Real Madrid's rival, where USA is not."
- "Some of the instruments were the same."
- "We speak differently."
- "We both have big events but they are very different."
- "We have different religions."
- "In C-Ville we love music and same with Spain!"
- "People in the USA bullfight too. And bullfighting has the same importance in Spain that football has in the US."
- "They play soccer and sports like we do. They also play games and have fun."
- "They have different kinds of food than we do."
- "We all love soccer."
- "The Running of the Bulls is a tradition in Spain. The festival is like a New Years celebration, almost."
- "They dance more often than we do."

- "I noticed that the outfits that singers and dancers usually wear in America are a lot different in Spain. I also noticed a similarity between the instruments that we use. We have guitars in America and Spain has them for Flamenco music and other things."
- "Pablo Picasso painted differently than American artists."
- "I feel like the culture in Spain is similar to the one in the U.S. but I think that Spain is really bright and colorful and the U.S. is full of factories and things. And they celebrate holidays differently."
- "We have a different language, but we are basically the same."